



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/663,995	09/17/2003	Soon Jo Lee	9988.059.00-US	1979

30827 7590 04/02/2009
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER

GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3743

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

04/02/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,995

Applicant(s)

LEE ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen M. Gravini

Art Unit

3743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period **will** apply and **will** expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply **will**, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6,9 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-3,7 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6,9 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Matters

Claims 1-3 and 7-8, which were affirmed by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (hereinafter Board), remain in the application, and prosecution on those claims are closed.

Claims 4-6 and 9-10, in which the rejection was reversed by the Board, have been determined to be unpatentable based on new rejections set for below.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 4-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by figure 2 of applicant's drawings. Figure 2 is labeled prior art and shows each of the features recited in the claimed invention. Figure 2 discloses the claimed a terminal block **8** disposed within the laundry dryer control panel **6**, the terminal block including a back portion placed on a control panel (near the tail and tip of the arrow) and a front portion having a lower part and an uppermost part (above and below reference character **6**);

a wall extending below the terminal block bottom part and above the terminal block uppermost part (the claimed wall begins near the lower right corner of lower figure 2, adjacent reference character **4** and extends upward near the upper right corner of lower figure 2, adjacent reference character **9b**);

a first wire **8a** extending out of the terminal block bottom part; and
second wire **9b** extending out of the terminal block uppermost part wherein the wall extends from the terminal block such that the wall shields an exposed portion of the first wire and the second wire (best shown with reference character **10**). Figure 2 also discloses the claimed feature wherein the wall covers a first connector coupling the terminal block lower part with a first power wire and a second connector coupling the terminal block upper part with a second power wire from a first side of the terminal block and a second side of the terminal block (best shown with reference character **10**), single body **8** wall and terminal block formation, first and second part spacing (shown near reference character **10**), and wall size extension (best shown with reference character **10**).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 4-6 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hopkins (US 4,010,996) in view of Lennon (US 4,030,802). Hopkins discloses the claimed invention comprising:

a terminal block **28** (figures 2 and 5-7) disposed within the laundry dryer **10** control panel **16** (figure 1 shows how the terminal block **28** would fit within the control panel when applying figures 2-7 to the structure of figure 1 and column 4 line 47 wherein the disclosed “into” anticipates the claimed “within”), the terminal block including a back portion placed on a control panel and a front portion having a lower part and an uppermost part (best seen in figure 3);

a wall **22** extending below the terminal block bottom part and above the terminal block uppermost part (figure 1 and column 4 line 46 wherein figure 2 exemplifies a wall for the disclosed entire wiring assembly disclosed in the detailed description such that it is inherent that the assembly is shown in figure 1 to be a wall to support the wiring assembly disclosed in the description because it necessarily follows that a wall supports the structure and function shown and disclosed, it is recognized that the structure disclosed in Hopkins meets the structural and functional limitation of the claimed "wall" because the plain meaning of a wall is a dividing structure between space and the disclosed wall in the disclosure and drawings of Hopkins meets this claim limitation);

a first wire **32** extending out of the terminal block bottom part (figures 1-3 and 5-7 and column 4 line 45 wherein the disclosed conductor is another name for a wire). Hopkins also discloses the claimed feature wherein the wall **22** (from figure 1) covers a first connector coupling the terminal block lower part with a first power wire (figures 1 and 32) and a second connector **212** coupling the terminal block upper part with a second power wire from a first side of the terminal block and a second side of the terminal block (column 8 lines 38-63 describing the wires shown in figure 32 extending from jig **210** from a back of a machine **218** to the control panel), single body wall and terminal block formation (figure 1 shows walls **22** or **24** being formed with the terminal block **28** as a single body), wherein the portions of exposed cores of the wire **32** include a first part **58** spaced from the terminal block and a second part **68** spaced from the terminal block (figure 3), and wherein the wall **22** or **24** is sized such that the wall has an end that extends beyond the first portion **16** and another end that extends beyond the

Art Unit: 3743

second portion **10** (figure 1). Hopkins discloses the claimed invention, except for the claimed second wire extending out of the terminal block uppermost part wherein the wall extends from the terminal block such that the wall shields an exposed portion of the first wire and the second wire. Lennon, another terminal block assembly for use in clothes dryers (column 1 line 25), discloses a terminal block assembly **11** for appliances such as clothes dryers, the terminal block assembly including a sequence timer **13** (column 4, lines 42-49, column 5, lines 14-20 and figures 1 and 2). The described terminal block assembly **11** also includes a casing **23** and a releasable cover **59** that define a closed wall (column 5, lines 43-53 and figures 2-4) which shields exposed cores (unnumbered; figures 2-5) of electrical leads **35** (i.e., wires) on which terminals **25** (i.e., connectors; column 4, lines 53-62 and figures 2-5) are connected. The electrical leads **35** extend above and below the terminal block (figures 1 and 2). Lennon further teaches the desirability of allowing quick inspection of the various electrical connections within the casing **23** (column 5, lines 47-55). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine the teachings of Hopkins with a second wire extending out of the terminal block uppermost part wherein the wall extends from the terminal block such that the wall shields an exposed portion of the first wire and the second wire, disclosed in Lennon, for the purpose of allowing a quick connect and disconnect electrical connection for an electrical device for greater electrical contact integrity in a cost effective and non-complicated manufacture endeavor.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen M. Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth B. Rinehart can be reached on 571 272 4881. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

January 22, 2009
/Stephen M. Gravini/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3743

/KAREN M. YOUNG/
Director, Technology Center 3700

Application/Control Number: 10/663,995
Art Unit: 3743

Page 7